

Remember child safety seat laws

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Despite the existence of laws in all 50 states requiring the use of car safety seats or child restraints devices, many children still die in crashes each year while riding in motor vehicles.

These deaths are primarily due to two things: the child being improperly restrained or not restrained at all. "Not restrained" is defined as the child freely moving or crawling around in the back seat. Law enforcement officers are cracking down on violators with stiffer penalties to address this problem. Parents sometimes don't install car seats properly or they use the wrong car seat for the child's size.

Here are the rules of buying and using a car seat.

First, purchase a seat that fits the vehicle's seat-belt system.

Second, the car seat must be the correct size for the child. The box contains instructions that give the specifications someone might need. Third, if the car seat is older than 6 years old, replace it. It's likely to be worn out and won't provide adequate restraint.

It's critical to properly position the seats. Although these seats are designed for a child's safety, they work properly if they are correctly installed. A study conducted revealed that 80 percent of child car seats aren't properly installed.

There are about 70 different models of car seats installed in thousands of different cars with distinct back seats. Consider these questions and answers when installing a car seat.

Is the child buckled in properly?

Pull the harness until it's snug, and the plastic clip are at armpit level. The straps should be flat and not twisted. When buckling the child into the car seat, compensate for clothing.

Is the seat buckled properly?

Check the owner's manual for the car and safety seat. Thread the seat belt correctly through the car seat. Tighten the seat belt properly.

Always check the configuration before each trip.

When can a child use a seat belt?

A child can wear a regular seatbelt when the shoulder belt lays across the shoulder, not neck. The lap belt must lie low across the hip, not stomach. Knees should bend easily over the edge of the vehicle seats. If the child doesn't fit the car's seat belt, keep the child in a safety seat.

Remember that traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for children 14 years of age and younger. However, properly used child seats cut in half the risk of fatal injuries.

SAFETY SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these four words, one letter each square, to form four ordinary words.

DWIIWON
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

RAZDHA
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

LANEK
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

USES
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer:

Last week's

Scrambles: ROCKET MORSEL ROACH BAFFLE

Answer: Failure to wear your safety belt on base will get you these: SORE FEET



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
(Answers next week)

hope ★
strength ★
joy ★ ★
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